

## VISIBLE SMOKE TEST FAILURE CONSUMER INFORMATION SHEET



Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Vehicle License No. or VIN: \_\_\_\_\_

**Your vehicle FAILED its Smog Check for “Visible Smoke” because:**

<b>“Smoke” was seen coming from your vehicle’s:</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Tailpipe following the emissions phase of the Smog Check inspection.
<input type="checkbox"/> Crankcase or PCV system during the underhood visual inspection.

### Common Causes of Vehicle Smoke

Color of Smoke	Diagnosis	Probable Cause
<b>Blue or Bluish-White</b>	Engine or transmission oil being burned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oil leaking into combustion chamber</li> <li>• Worn piston rings, valve guides, or cylinders</li> <li>• Defective intake manifold</li> <li>• Defective head gasket</li> <li>• Transmission vacuum modulator defective</li> </ul>
<b>Black or Gray</b>	Incomplete fuel combustion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clogged air filter</li> <li>• Carburetor, choke, fuel injection, or emission system malfunction</li> <li>• Ignition timing incorrect</li> <li>• Low compression from engine wear or burned valve</li> </ul>

Smoke seen coming from a vehicle's tailpipe contributes to California's air quality problems. The smoke consists of small particles that are breathed in and can cause lung problems, heart disease, and other health consequences. In addition, smoke from an engine also damages other emission control systems on a vehicle, like the catalytic converter and Oxygen (O<sub>2</sub>) sensor, making them less effective. Less effective emissions systems translates to dirtier air for all of California.

A new California law, Section 44012.1 of the Health and Safety Code, requires that vehicles subject to a Smog Check inspection undergo a visual test for smoke from the engine crankcase and tailpipe. California Vehicle Code section 27153 has for many years prohibited the operation of smoking vehicles on California's roadways. Doing so could subject the operator/owner to the issuance of a citation by the California Highway Patrol or a local law enforcement agency. The new smoke test may help protect vehicle operators/owners from receiving a citation for the illegal on-road operation of a smoking vehicle. Any vehicle that fails a “Visible Smoke Test” must be repaired in order to PASS a Smog Check.

Please take this Consumer Information Sheet with you to the repair shop you select to perform repairs. You may be eligible for repair assistance or California's Voluntary Vehicle Retirement Program. Contact the Bureau of Automotive Repair's Consumer Assistance Program to see if you qualify.

If you wish to dispute your vehicle's smoke test results, you may schedule a Bureau of Automotive Repair Referee verification test by calling (800) 622-7733 for an appointment.

For more information or for any other questions, call the Bureau of Automotive Repair at (800) 952-5210, or visit the Bureau's Web site at [www.smogcheck.ca.gov](http://www.smogcheck.ca.gov).